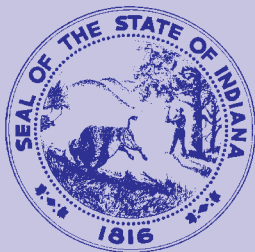


Ron Liggett

State Representative

District 33



How To Reach
Representative

Ron Liggett

RESIDENCE

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**ANSWER THE
QUESTIONNAIRE ONLINE**

www.state.in.us/R33

December, 1999

Dear Friends,

The General Assembly met for an extended Organization Day in mid-November.

The 2000 session is a "short" session, meaning we will begin session January 10 and finish before March 15.

In the short session, each House member may introduce only five pieces of legislation. While we will not re-open the two-year state budget passed earlier this year, the possibility remains that we may fine-tune some of the appropriations outlined in that legislation.

Inside this newsletter is my legislative questionnaire. The questions will provide some details about the topics that may be brought before the legislature. Your opinion is valuable to me as I consider how I will vote.

If you have any concerns or suggestions for change in your state government, please contact me at 1-800-382-9842.

Sincerely,



2000 Page Program

Serving as a page during the 2000 session allows any child age 13 or older the opportunity to gain a firsthand glimpse of how the legislative system works. Students will be excused from school on the day they are serving as a page and will spend the entire day at the Statehouse.

Interested students should send me their name, parent or guardian's name, address, phone number, school and two different dates when the student could come to the Statehouse between January 10 and February 29, 2000.

Please remember session is short and places fill up fast, so apply as soon as possible.

Our mission is to create an environment for Indiana's youth that is conducive to both fun and learning, and which will stimulate student interest in government and community involvement. To that end, we plan to educate students regarding legislative processes; to give students an opportunity to meet their community leaders; to encourage student involvement in the community; and to introduce students to other students around the state.

Reassessment -- *how will it affect you?*



Rep. Liggett discusses legislation with Speaker John R. Gregg (D-Sandborn).

Last December the State Supreme Court ruled that the property assessment guidelines used in the collection of property taxes were unconstitutional because property was not assessed uniformly based on “objectively verifiable data.”

I supported a bill to delay the reassessment. This would have allowed the Board time to work out a good program. This also would have given the Legislature time to review the guidelines and ease the shift to reassessment.

The reassessment will not increase the money generated by property taxes; it merely shifts the burden among taxpayers. While one taxpayer may see an increase, another taxpayer will have a decrease. I will do everything I can to ease the burden for

homeowners.

The new assessment guidelines, mandated by the Indiana Supreme Court, will affect property tax bills starting in 2002.

I am working to find alternative approaches which will ease the burden for homeowners. The State Tax Board has discussed several options, including phasing in the property tax increases rather than raising them all at once. Again, I intend to do all I can to lower the property tax burden for homeowners.

Educating our children

Did you know that more than 20 percent of adults read at or below a fifth grade level? This is far below the level needed to earn a living wage. Forty-three percent of people with the lowest literacy skills live in poverty. An inability to read has been linked to a multitude of social problems, including crime and teen pregnancy.

The Indiana General Assembly has attempted to help by appropriating \$3.9 million in funding for early intervention (K-3) reading programs. The General Assembly also provided \$6 million to replace old and worn school library books and materials.

If you know of people who would like to obtain a GED, need reading help for their child, need reading help for themselves, want to learn English as a Second Language, want to improve their employment options or who want to go from welfare to work, then contact the Literacy Helpline at 1-800-267-9029. The helpline is part of the Indiana Literacy Foundation.

The Indiana Literacy Foundation sponsors statewide programs to encourage people to read. Reach Out and Read (ROAR) is a pediatric literacy initiative to help infants and children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years discover the joys of reading. Developed by pediatricians at Boston Medical Center, ROAR recruits volunteers to conduct reading circles at health facilities. Doctors “prescribe” reading to their young patients, each of whom receives a brand new book after each visit.

How are we doing?

	Indiana	U.S.
High School Graduation Rate	87.9%	82%
College Attendance Rate	53.5%	41%
SAT Composite Score	981	1013

2000 Legislative Survey

Questions

1. Should Indiana eliminate the ISTEP program for testing students and come up with another method of gauging progress in the classroom?
2. Do you support passage of legislation that would allow people to have their names placed on a list that would prohibit telemarketers from calling them?
3. Indiana presently ranks 48th in the nation in the amount of benefits provided to workers injured while on the job. Should injured workers be compensated at higher rates?
4. Do you believe inducements like enterprise zones and tax abatements are an effective use of tax dollars to spur economic development?
5. Should the Legislature delay the implementation of new property assessment guidelines created by the State Board of Tax Commissioners that will shift the property tax burden to homeowners when they take effect?
6. Should public schools be required to continue providing education services to children who are suspended or expelled for non-violent reasons?
7. Should we prohibit children to have guns on school property, even if it is a hunting rifle kept in their own vehicle parked in the school lot?

Responses

	<i>Respondent 1</i>		<i>Respondent 2</i>	
1.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
5.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
6.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
7.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Your Comments

Place
Stamp
Here

Rep. Ron Liggett
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2786

House Publications Available

The following publications can be requested free of charge from my Statehouse office by calling toll-free 1-800-382-9842:

Relax . . . -- This informational booklet for senior citizens discusses a variety of issues, from taxes to health problems to leisure activities.

Higher Education -- A 24-page publication for those interested in pursuing a higher education degree, detailing many Indiana colleges and universities as well as occupational and vocational schools.

Guide to State Agencies -- This booklet details various agencies within Indiana state government, listing phone numbers, functions and general areas of responsibility for each of the state agencies.

Hoosier Fun and Facts -- Designed for elementary school-aged children, this information and activity book teaches students about their state through a combination of text, puzzles and other educational activities.

**Is the address label on
this mailing correct?**

Please check the address label on this mailing for accuracy. If there are any errors or if you are receiving duplicate mailings, please contact my office at 1-800-382-9842. Every effort will be made to correct the mistake.

I appreciate your assistance in keeping the mailing list updated. This will ultimately result in more efficient delivery and substantial savings to taxpayers across the state.

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Call the Statehouse toll-free 1-800-382-9842

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